PUBLIC HEALTH
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Texas A&M Ergonomics Center

Leadership

Mark E. Benden, PhD, CPE

Director

Department Head & Associate Professor

Co-Directors

Ranjana Mehta, PhD, MS

Camille Peres, PhD

Adam Pickens, PhD, MPH

Research Interests

- Office Worker Obesity
- Classroom Ergonomics and Childhood Obesity
- Medical Device Development and Testing
- Rehabilitation Engineering
- Physical and Cognitive Workload Evaluation in Work Systems
- Stress and Fatigue
- Obesity and Aging
- Human Systems Interaction
- Neuroergonomics
- Software Biomechanics
- Auditory Design Display
- Human Factors of Procedures
- Simulations for the teaching of statistics
- Occupational biomechanics
- Occupational Safety
- Mobile Application Development
- Manual Materials Handling

Mission

Formally established in 2012 by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, the Texas A&M Ergonomics Center at Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Public Health seeks to improve worker performance, safety, and health through basic research and applied ergonomics designs and interventions to existing and emerging technologies. The Center is a partner to industry and healthcare to improve their competitiveness by improving worker and future worker performance by reducing injuries/illnesses related to musculoskeletal disorders and designing for their diverse workforce.

FOCUS: The Center's **primary area of focus** is on the impact of aging, sedentary behavior, obesity, and workplace technology design on the health and productivity of the workforce.

RESEARCH

Center faculty have conducted ground-breaking research in the following areas:

- Occupational Health & Safety with an emphasis on obesity and aging-related issues;
- Ergonomic evaluation with a focus on workstation and classroom redesign; and,
- Commercialization and translational research opportunities.

SUPPORT

Funding sources include the following:

- National Institutes of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- National Science Foundation
- Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
- Texas Transportation Institute
- Industry sponsors
- PESCA

INNOVATION:

Center research has led to development of ergonomic solutions in various applications, including:

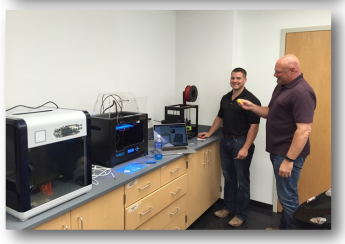
- Development of an ergonomic assessment tool
- Prevention strategies for prevention of musculoskeletal disorders
- Effect of obesity on keyboard data entry
- Ergonomic assessment of laparoscopic surgery, and evaluating brain-body responses (neuroergonomics) to stress and muscle fatigue

Dynamic Research

Researchers are investigating the health benefits and outcomes of replacing traditional sitting desks with "standing desks" to address childhood obesity.

Education & Outreach

The Ergo Center trains the next generation of Ergonomics and Safety Professionals through applied research experiences.



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January 2017